



Easter Sunday: A House of Cards

1 Corinthians 15: 12-19

Discussion Questions for April 5th, 2026

1. (IceBreaker) What are your family's Easter traditions? Was church always a part of it? Did you celebrate as kids with or without the Easter Bunny involved? Which foods do you routinely have at Easter that others may not?
2. **Main Idea: Christianity Falls Apart If Jesus Is Still Dead.** Pastor Shaen recommended that people skip church next Easter if Jesus is still dead. Let's take that thought a little further...imagine a world where Jesus never rose from the dead. How should we then spend our time on Sunday mornings? How would our financial priorities change? Which aspects of life would take priority among family, job, community, recreation, etc.? (Check out Paul's slogan in 1 Corinthians 15:32b for living in such a world).
3. **Point #1: If Jesus Is Still Dead...Our Faith Is Empty.** Pastor Shaen: "Faith can only be as strong as the object it's placed in." My faith in the gas gauge of my car doesn't matter if the gauge is actually stuck on "full" when the gas runs out. What are some other objects that people put their faith in that actually disappoint in the end? Include some examples that are fairly minor and some that could wreck your life.
4. **Point #2: If Jesus Is Still Dead...We're All Liars.** If Jesus is still dead, then 1 Corinthians 15:4-8 is a list of over 500 liars. Also, the people who believed them are naive fools, all the way through history to us. What would you say to someone who accuses us of being that foolish today? How do the lives of the first Christians show that they must have really seen the resurrected Jesus?
5. **Point #3: If Jesus Is Still Dead...There Is No Hope.** Some might say that even if Jesus is still dead, being a Christian is still laudable and worthwhile. After all, you teach your kids to have good morals, you give money to help others, etc. Do you agree or disagree with that line of thinking? Now read Hebrews 11:36-40 about those who followed God by faith over the centuries. Would your answer change?

6. Paul mentions in verse 12 that "some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead." In fact, most Gentiles in the Roman empire, influenced heavily by Greek philosophy, would NOT believe in a bodily resurrection. They believed that a person's shade (a kind of shadowy soul) went to the underworld for a weak, joyless, diminished existence lacking full consciousness. Philosophical schools would say:
- **Epicureans:** Denied the afterlife at all - death was simply the end.
 - **Stoics:** Believed the soul might persist for a time, but not eternally.
 - **Platonists:** Believed in an immortal soul, but not a resurrected body - the soul was actually better off without it

When you think about the background of religious thought already present in Corinth, how would they receive a claim about Jesus' bodily resurrection? What evidence would need to be provided to overcome their prior beliefs?

7. Pray that we can live in the reality of Jesus Christ's bodily resurrection, celebrated at Easter. Encourage one another that as the hymn says, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow." May our living Savior sustain us and prepare us for every good work, and may we proclaim Him to everyone we meet. Amen.